(c) whether clinical trial of the new device has been carried out successfully; and

(d) if so, by when the new contraceptive is likely to be released for universal application?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A bioactive compound and a specific co-polymer when injected in the vas deferens induces long term contraceptive effect.

(c) Phase-I clinical trial was conducted on 38 male volunteers whose wives had already undergone sterilization. Phase-ll clinical trial was conducted in subjects whose wives were having normal reproductive profile. The results reconfirmed the safety of the drug, showed azoospermia and gave complete pregnancy protection. Limited Phase-Ill clinical trial aiming to enroll 150 subjects is ongoing at three centers in Delhi. To increase the enrolment of the subjects, the trial has been recently extended to one more centre at Jaipur.

(d) The matter of release of the drug will be decided on successful completion of Phase-Ill clinical trial and analysis of relevant data.

Increase in Diabetes

2996. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Diabetes' number on the rise", which appeared in the Hindu, dated the 13th March, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the report with regard to alarmingly rising incidence of diabetes mellitus in almost all the major cities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Diabetes treatment is done at all levels in the rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. A pilot

project on "Strengthening of Bio-Chemical Laboratories and Quality Assurance", was initiated in 1999-2000 in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Punjab. The National Diabetes Control Programme has now been merged with the Indian Council of Medical Research which has constituted as Expert Group to formulate a revised comprehensive Plan of action to control diabetes. Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) has also strategies/programme including use of powerful electronic media to spread health messages to increase Public Health awareness about diabetes.

Use of expired medicines in pulse polio drive

2997. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expired medicines were also used during the pulse polio drive;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of such cases were detected in U.P. and Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the CBI has registered cases of not providing the polio dose in Rajasthan, besides the scam of Rs. 40 lakhs; and

(e) if so, the details of action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) to (e) There has been no report of any case registered for not providing polio doses in Rajasthan. However, a case of alleged financial irregularity by some officials of Rajasthan Government is presently under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation.